



May 28, 2010

transmitted via e-mail

State of Michigan
House of Representatives
House Transportation Committee

RE: House Bills 6151 and 6152

Dear Honorable Members of the House Transportation Committee,

I am excited to voice my support for the Michigan Complete Streets legislation; House Bills 6151 and 6152. Supporting Complete Streets will create Michigan communities that are healthier, more vibrant, more prosperous, more active and more fun!

I am the Executive Director of TART Trails, Inc., a bike and pedestrian advocacy organization in Traverse City, Michigan. TART Trails started out just promoting and building trails, but through the years we have come to realize that public street right of ways can serve as important transportation links for cyclists and pedestrians, if only they were designed properly. In the past several years, our community has worked hard to become more bike and pedestrian friendly. Representative Wayne Schmidt and Senator Jason Allen have been instrumental in helping us work with partners at MDOT and our local municipalities to incorporate complete street concepts into some recent street design projects.

Some of these local projects would have been much more successful if there had been this legislation in place so that the design engineers were forced to look much more carefully at providing for all users - funding would require it. Complete streets policies ensure that infrastructure is designed and operated to provide safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, truckers and transit riders of all ages and abilities can move safely along and across a complete street. A complete street is designed to balance safety and convenience for everyone using the public right of way.

On behalf of the TART Trail board of directors, we urge you to vote in favor of the Michigan Complete Streets Bills.

Very Truly Yours,
TART Trails, Inc.

Bob Otwell, Executive Director

PO Box 252

Traverse City, MI 49685

231-941-4300

traversetrails.org

Because

Trails

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